

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD7624S

Date of Senate Approval 05/02/2024

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**FWDC 12: Change the name of the Undergraduate Research Program (URP) to the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program (URCAP) by Revising Guidelines for Faculty Handbook Section 10.5.5 Faculty Handbook [Section 10.5.5](#)**

**Effective Date:** Immediately

**Summary:** Change the name of the Undergraduate Research Program (URP) to the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program (URCAP).

Replace the University Laurels Merit Scholarship Program as the University Honors Program.

**Rationale:** In order to be inclusive of all students who engage in original projects, this proposal asks to add Creative Activity in the title of the program to become the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program. Creative Activity has been a part of the program since its inception but students can be confused if their work counts as research and choose not to engage in the program due to this confusion. The name change is intended to alleviate confusion and foster an atmosphere of inclusivity.

The [Council on Undergraduate Research](#) (CUR) states:

“Undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry is fundamentally a pedagogical approach to teaching and learning. With an emphasis on process, CUR defines undergraduate research as: A mentored investigation or **creative inquiry** conducted by undergraduates that seeks to make a scholarly or **artistic** contribution to knowledge.”

Since Fall 2021, the [Symposia schedule](#) has been called the “Symposium on Undergraduate Research, Creativity, and Community Engagement.”

In the Faculty Senate *APC Document #21: Undergraduate Research Scholar Designation*, which went into effect in Fall 1991, creative activity has been advertised including the statement: “The research/creative project will be presented...students..may consult URPAC concerning the appropriate format, especially in the case of artistic projects.” For more information, please [view](#) the Faculty Senate *APC Document #21: Undergraduate Research Scholar Designation*.

Examples of other schools that include creative activity in the name of their programs include, [UNC Greensboro](#): Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity; [Clemson University](#): Creative Inquiry + Undergraduate Research; [Vancouver Island University](#): Scholarship, Research & Creative Activity.

**Departments in Support:** Mathematics and Statistics, Computer Science, Humanities Program, Masters of Public Health, History, Physics and Astronomy, Economics, English, New Media\*, Psychology, WGSS, Art and Art History, Drama.

Departments not in Support: Atmospheric Science.

\*New Media wholeheartedly supports the name change to "Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program." As your justification states, creative activity has always been a component of our Undergraduate Research program, but our New Media majors sometimes balk at submitting their own creative work, because "research" is often interpreted specifically as either academic paper presentation or scientific poster presentation. Although one aspect of the New Media major does involve research and paper writing (our second student learning outcomes is: "Students develop a critical vocabulary with which to describe and analyze new media in writing"), our primary goal in New Media is that students create quality, culturally relevant media works (our first student learning outcome is: "Students develop a varied array of new media skills, allowing them to clearly communicate concepts and create work relevant to contemporary culture"). Adding "Creative Activity" aligns the title of the UR program more clearly and explicitly with the kinds of projects many of our New Media majors are producing.

For the University Laurels Merit Scholarship Program, it is now called the Honors Program.

**Revise Section [10.5.5](#) as follows:**

### **10.5.5**

Director of the ~~Undergraduate Research Program~~ **Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program**

#### Duties:

The responsibilities of the Director of the Program include:

1. cooperating with the ~~University Laurels Merit Scholarship Program~~ **University Honors Program** to recruit and retain talented students;
2. serving as an information conduit for students and faculty who want to learn more about ~~undergraduate research~~ **undergraduate research and creative activity**;
3. providing information about funding opportunities for students through academic year and summer ~~research~~ **creative activity** and presentation grants;
4. coordinating the interaction of undergraduate ~~research~~ students **in the Program** with external groups (e.g. NCUR, Research at the Capital, SOARS);

5. arranging for public presentation of the work of ~~undergraduate research~~ **undergraduate research and creative activity** students for the UNC Asheville community;
6. overseeing the publication of the ~~UNCA Journal on Undergraduate Research~~ **UNC Asheville Journal of Undergraduate Research**;
7. collecting information on students and faculty who participate in ~~undergraduate research~~ **undergraduate research and creative activity** for institutional awards;
8. interacting with the national ~~undergraduate research~~ **undergraduate research and creative activity** community.

UNC Asheville's ~~Undergraduate Research Program~~ **Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program** offers a range of opportunities specifically aimed at assisting faculty and students with collaborative efforts in research **and creative activity**. The ~~Undergraduate Research Program Advisory Council (URPAC)~~ **Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program Advisory Council (URCAPAC)** assists the ~~director~~ **Director of the Program** in setting policy, assessment of the effectiveness of the program, and making changes necessary to improve the overall quality of the program. (See [Section 11.3](#) for program information).

Appointed by: the Provost and VCAA in consultation with representatives from the ~~Undergraduate Research Program Advisory Council (URPAC)~~ **Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Program Advisory Council (URCAPAC)** .

Term of Appointment: 3 years, renewable